Schemes to Boost exports

874. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced some schemes for increasing country's exports;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what will be the anticipated increase in exports through the recently announced schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Some of the important measures announced by Government during the recent past are as follows:—

(i) A Scheme for supply of Diesel Oil at special prices comparable to international prices to eligible production units exporting 25 per cent or more of their production;

(ii) Procedures under the Gold Control Act for promoting exports of Gems & Jewellery have been simplified and streamlined. Facility for stock and supply of Gold for 100 per cent Export Prodction by MMTC, improvement in bank credit facility etc. have also been provided;

(iii) A promotional incentive scheme for exports of South Indian Teas has been announced;

(iv) Export Duty on Coffee has been withdrawn;

(v) Duty Drawback procedures have been liberalised;

(vi) Cash Compensatory Suport (CCS) has been announced on export of a few new items;

(vii) 100 per ent Export Oriented Units and Units in the Export Processing Zones have been made eligible for CCS @ 50 per cent of the normal rate on physical exports.

(viii) Export Duty on black pepper has been withdrawn; and

(ix) Blanket Import-Export Pass Book Scheme has been introduced for boosting export of cotton and Synthetic Garments. This facility has also been extended to silk and woollen garments.

The Export target of Rs. 18795 crores has been fixed for 1988-89 as against provisional exports of Rs. 15719.36 crores during 1987-88 i.e. an increase of about 19 per cent Exports during April-August, 1988 amounted to Rs. 7312.99 crores as compared to Rs. 6074.67 crores during April-August, 1987 showing an increase of about 20 per cent.

Employment to women workers in Andhra Pradesh under the social forestry programme

875. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme to provide employment to women workers under Social Forestry Programme in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the progress made with the said scheme in each district of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There is no scheme to provide employment exclusively for women workers only under Social Forestry Programmes in Andhra Pradesh. However, the social forestry project assisted by Canadian International Development Agency visualizes that women will account for 46 per cent of the total labour input during the project period.

(b) This Project was initiated in 1983-84 and has been extended upto 1989-90. The revised target for afforestation is approximately 44840 hectares